

R 140452Z NOV 08
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0513
INFO AMEMBASSY DILI
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 001151

DEPT FOR DSERCC, DS/IP/ITA; DS/IP/EAP; DS/IP/FPO;
DS/PSP/FPD; DS/CC; EMBASSIES FOR RSO'S; CONSULATES FOR PSO'S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT US EMBASSY CANBERRA

On Friday, November 14, 2008, at 2:15 PM, there was a peaceful demonstration by the Assyrian community of Australia at the US Embassy in Canberra. The group, calling itself the "Assyrians of Australia," consisted of about 45 to 50 people wearing white T-shirts smeared with red paint. They carried banners stating, "How many must die before something is done?" and "Assyrian Homeland, Isaiah 19:23-25." During the demonstration, the protesters chanted, "Rights! Rights! We want rights!" At the conclusion of the 30 minute protest, the leader of the demonstration presented an Embassy representative with a letter addressed to the President of the United States pleading for the "protection and rights of the Assyrian Nation." Police support was exceptional, with local police present for the duration of the scheduled protest. The demonstrators left the area without incident. Prior to arriving at the US Embassy, the group had also marched on the Israeli Embassy, the Iraqi Embassy, and the European Union compound.